



Diane Patrick

State Representative District 94

Capitol Update

September 30, 2010

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UT-Arlington Enrollment Record

The University of Texas at Arlington has been among the fastest-growing institutions in the University of Texas system, and earlier this month they announced an all-time record enrollment of 32,956 students this fall! Additionally, the new larger freshman class boasts a stronger academic profile than ever before. A preliminary fall census report shows striking growth at UT-Arlington with enrollment up 31% from fall 2008, when the University was home to 25,085 students. UT Arlington President **Jim Spaniolo** said the dramatic enrollment numbers demonstrate a growing awareness among students and their families that the University is "a vibrant community where you can earn a first-rate education." For more information: www.uta.edu

Arlington Central Library Updates

The Central Library, the most popular of Arlington's seven branches, located downtown is working with consultants to determine the most cost-effective method to update, restore or even rebuild the 40-year-old building. At a meeting earlier this month, residents gathered to discuss and examine potential services that they would like to see offered by the library. Suggestions included art films on Sundays, a larger collection of the city's historical records, and free child care to patrons who go there to work, read or study. "The important part of this process is that Central Library services become what you want as a community," Libraries Director **Cary Siegfried** told meeting participants.

Speaking Engagement

Earlier this week, I had the pleasure of speaking with the 400 students in the political science class taught by **Dr. Allen Saxe** at UT-Arlington. These students are studying Texas government and were discussing the Legislature.

Tarrant County Flu Shots

Tarrant County Public Health has received over 3,300 doses of the flu shot vaccination and began administering them at centers earlier this week. This year's vaccine "provides protection against H1N1 and other strains," said **Dr. Sandra Parker**, the health agency's medical director and health authority. Those over the age of 6 months are recommended to receive the vaccine which will also be offered at pharmacies and private care clinics. See <http://www.tarrantcounty.com/ehea> for more information.

November 2nd General Election

Voting Begins Soon!

Early Voting from Monday October 18 - Friday October 29

Hurricane Hermine Strikes Texas

In early September Hermine struck Texas with high gusting winds and torrential rainfall causing massive flooding across the state, especially Arlington. Our city firefighters and police officers were outstanding in their rescue and recovery efforts, along with help from the American Red Cross, churches and many kind individuals. As an Arlington resident since 1973, I am well aware of repeated property destruction caused by flooding. Recently, I've met with affected residents, including a town hall meeting earlier this month. I am also working with Congressman Barton, Councilwoman Wilemon, and others to get fair resolution on this matter. See attached Texas Insurance Department letter for those seeking assistance.

University of Texas –Austin

The recent shooting incident this week at the University of Texas-Austin highlighted that the University was prepared to manage this emergency and was an excellent model for other institutions to protect the safety of their community. Within nine minutes after the first report of someone with a weapon on campus, officials had utilized sirens, e-mail, the school's website, video monitors in buildings and residence halls, Twitter and Facebook. The text message system alone reached more than 53,000 people to both warn and reassure associated individuals and families.

Our *Capitol Update* is distributed from my office to provide information about happenings in Arlington and Austin, and we must follow strict ethical guidelines. Factual information may be provided, but political opinions or affiliations may not. If you would like more information about a specific issue, feel free to contact our office by telephone, email, or just stop by.

Sincerely,

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